

DEPARTMENT of the INTERIOR

FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

news release

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FEDERAL GRANT PROGRAMS FOR SPORT FISH AND WILDLIFE RESTORATION EXAMINED IN FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

A final environmental impact statement has been issued on two Federal grant programs designed to strengthen State efforts to manage and restore game and nongame animals and fish, the Interior Department's U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has announced. The draft version of the statement was published for public comment on June 30, 1978, and was the subject of a public hearing in August.

The statement examines the programs authorized by two public laws--the Federal Aid in Sport Fish Restoration Act (Dingell-Johnson Act or D-J) and the Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration Act (Pittman-Robertson or P-R). It considers the impacts on populations of big and small game, migratory game birds, sport fish, nongame fish and wildlife, threatened and endangered species, and the related impacts on land, air, and water quality, soils, and economic conditions. The statement also discusses six alternatives to the current programs, all of which would alter the degree of Federal funding or control.

In fiscal year 1978, \$87.2 million was made available to finance approved State projects for acquiring or improving suitable habitat, research, and restoration and management of fish and wildlife. These Federal funds come from excise taxes on firearms, ammunition, archery equipment, fishing rods, and certain other fishing tackle. The funds are

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